affected by the drought conditions in various parts of the country; and

(b) what measures are contemplated by Government to insulate the industry and the economy in general from the adverse effects of drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to CSO's index of industrial production the rate of industrial growth was 8.9 per cent in 1986-87 as compared to 8.7 per cent in 1985-86. As per the latest available information the rate of growth during April-May 1987 was 10.7 per cent over April-May, 1986.

(b) Government have taken a number of measures such as making available essential commodities through a wide network of distribution, employment generation in the drought affected areas through relief works and improved supply of raw materials and power.

Reservation of Industries for Small Sector

219. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain industries have been reserved by Government only for the small scale sector;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce or increase this number; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other fresh initiatives Government propose to take for helping and encouraging the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reservation/Dereservation of items is a continuous process and the list of reserved items is being reviewed periodically by a Committee constituted by the Govt. under I(D&R) Act. This Committee meets at regular intervals and recommends to the Government items to be added and deleted from the reserved list. 847 items have been reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector as on date.

(c) Government have been pursuing several policies and taking measures from time to time for helping and encouraging the small scale sector. These include reservation of items for exclusive production and purchase, enhancement of investment limit in plant and machinery excise concessions, setting up of Small Industry Development Fund, the National Equity Fund, operation of a Margin Money Scheme for revival of sick units, provision of concessional finance, skill development through training programmes, setting up of field testing centres, design and development of proto-types, common facilities services, upgradation of skill and technology and consultancy through a network of Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs), Branch Institutes and Extension Centres spread all over the country.

Shortfall in cement production due to power shortage

220. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated percentage of shortfall in cement production during 1987-88 due to acute power shortage in the country and what is its likely impact on the availability and the price structure of cement; and

(b) what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation by bringing down the production shortfall to the minimum and